TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

TUNISIA

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Tunisia

Capital: Tunis

Population: 9,513,630 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Hamed Karoui

Official language(s) Arabic, French

Economy: State run moving to free markets

Religions: Islam (98%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Tunis

Flights from Frankfurt: Tunis Air

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: 144 Avenue de la Liberte 1002 Tunis-Belvedere, Tunis Tel: 216-1-782-566 ext 4257 or 4192 FAX:

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, no-fee passports are required. Passports are required for all travel to or in Tunisia including leave travel and for aircrew members. Visas are not required for US citizens who stay less than four months. Military personnel on leave require passports but do not require visas for visits of less than four months. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice, but do require identification credentials. DoD military and civilian personnel will notify USDAO Tunis upon arrival in-country and provide emergency contact information. All military personnel must have military ID cards, orders, and Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: 2 cameras and 20 rolls of film, jewelry, portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, electric razor, small electric appliances, record player and records, 50 cigars or 200 cigarettes or 2,000 grams of tobacco in opened

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Tourist facilities are widely available in the main tourist areas. The workweek is Monday to Friday, with government offices open on Saturday mornings. Most stores are closed on Sunday, except in resort areas, where many remain open. Avoid individual or group activities which might be construed as disrespect for local religious beliefs and customs. Do not discuss politics. A Tunisian government license is required to carry firearms. Do not photograph ports, airports, or Tunisian military facilities. Use cameras with discretion near any government property or personnel. American citizens of Tunisian origin are expected to enter Tunisia as Tunisians, on their Tunisian passports. If the Tunisian/American succeeds in entering on an American

Amembassy working days are Mon-Fri; closed Sat and Sun. Hours are 0800L-1645L. Amembassy observes US and local holidays. If an official holiday falls on a Sunday, either the day before or the day after (Sat or Mon) is declared a holiday. If that day is already a holiday, the holiday will cover the period

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Travelers checks and credit cards are accepted at some establishments in Tunisia, mainly in urban or tourist areas. The Tunisian dinar is not yet a fully convertible currency. Tunisian law prohibits the export or import of Tunisian bank notes or coins. Tunisian law permits the export of foreign currency declared when entering Tunisia. Tourists are expected to make foreign exchange transactions at authorized banks or dealers and to retain receipts for dinars obtained. Under foreign currency regulations, a tourist can reconvert to foreign currency 30 percent of what has been exchanged into dinars, up to a maximum of 100 dollars. Declaring foreign currency upon entering Tunisia and obtaining a receipt for dinars purchased thereafter will facilitate reconverting dinars to US dollars. Keep all receipts of monetary transactions for presentation upon leaving the country.

Rate: Approximate: 1.3 Tunisian dinar for $1.

HEALTH

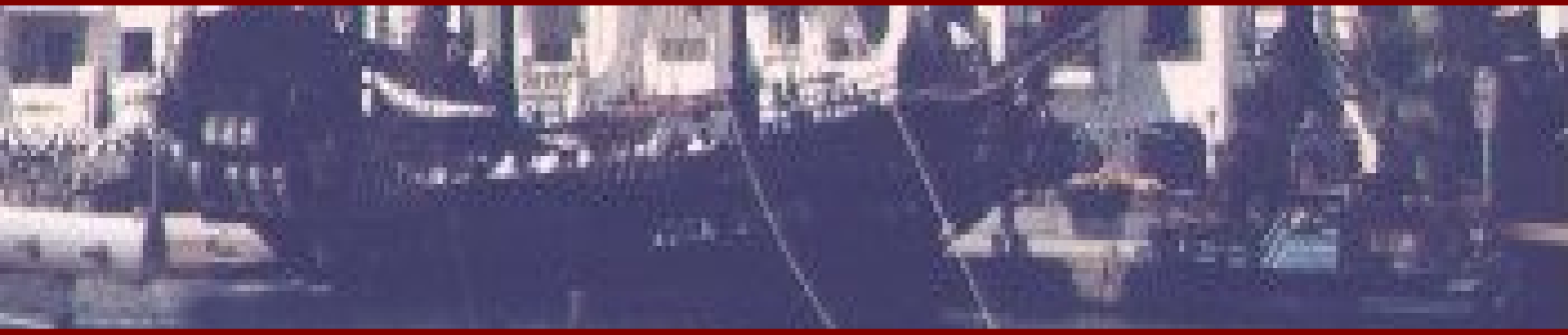
Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, heat injuries and high elevaion.

Availability of medical services: Adequate medical care is readily available.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Tunisa. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Good

Health Precautions: None



Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid,

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Tunisa. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil water before drinking except in urban areas of Tunis. Bottled water is recommended. Make ice cubes from treated/boiled water only. Use canned or dried milk. Although of excellent quality, all fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed and peeled before being eaten. Do not eat uncooked shellfish. Beaches (especially Tunis area) may be polluted; hotel swimming pools are recommended. Lifeguards are generally not available. Tunisia has open borders with Libya and Algeria. (Please refer to the Consular Information Sheets for those countries.) There have been no instances in which U.S. citizens or facilities have been subject to terrorist attacks, and the Government of Tunisia takes many security measures for the benefit of the many tourists who visit

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Tunisia has a moderate crime rate in urban areas. Criminals have targeted tourists and business travelers for thefts, pickpocketings, and scams. Care should be taken with wallets and other valuables kept in handbags or backpacks that can be easily opened from behind in crowded streets or marketplaces. Harassment of unaccompanied females occurs rarely in hotels, but it occurs more frequently elsewhere. Dressing in a conservative manner can diminish potential harassment, but it is wise to travel in groups of two or more. Violent crime is rare by U.S. standards, but it is not unknown. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. It is recommended that visitors avoid driving after dark outside of Tunis or the major resort areas. Drivers fail to obey the rules of the road without the presence of the police. Traffic signs and signals are often ignored, and Tunisa is strict on: Drugs.

Defensive driving is a must when driving in Tunisia. Drivers may be stopped for inspection by police officers within cities

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Uniform will not be worn except when coordinated with Amembassy Tunis. Summer clothing is recommended Mar-Oct; woolen clothing Nov-Feb. Raincoats are needed during winter months (Nov-Feb).

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

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